

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 8 and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claims 1, 7 and 13 to 18 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A printing apparatus comprising:

a setting unit for setting whether printing is executed in excess of a specific deterioration degree or not; and

a printing unit for executing the printing on the basis of print information in accordance with the setting by the setting unit when an image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information,

wherein, when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, if a mode in which the printing is not executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting unit, said printing unit deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information, and when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, if a mode in which the printing is executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting unit, said printing unit deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting unit includes an operation panel.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said deterioration includes deterioration due to image compression.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said setting unit includes a unit for setting a degree of the deterioration.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, whether a mode in which the printing is not executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting unit or not is discriminated every page, if it is determined that the mode in which the printing is not executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting unit, said printing unit deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information, and when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, if it is determined that a mode in which the printing is executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting unit, said printing unit deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information.

7. (Currently amended) A print control method comprising:
a setting step of setting whether printing is executed in excess of a specific deterioration degree or not; and

a printing step of executing the printing on the basis of print information in accordance with the setting by the setting step when an image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information,

wherein, when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, if a mode in which the printing is not executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting step, said printing step deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information, and when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, if a mode in which the printing is executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting step, said printing step deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said setting step is set by an operation panel.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said deterioration includes deterioration due to image compression.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein said setting step includes a step of setting a degree of the deterioration.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, whether a mode in which the printing is not executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting step or not is discriminated every page, if it is determined that the mode in which the printing is

not executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting step, said printing step deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information, and when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, if a mode in which the printing is executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting step, said printing step deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information.

13. (Currently amended) A program product embodied on a computer-readable storage medium, comprising:

a setting step of setting whether printing is executed in excess of a specific deterioration degree or not; and

a printing step of executing the printing on the basis of print information in accordance with the setting by the setting step when an image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information,

wherein, when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, if a mode in which the printing is not executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting step, said printing step deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information, and when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, if a mode in which the printing is executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting step, said printing step deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A program product embodied on a computer-readable storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said setting step is set by an operation panel.

16. (Currently amended) A program product embodied on a computer-readable storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said deterioration includes deterioration due to image compression.

17. (Currently amended) A program product embodied on a computer-readable storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said setting step includes a step of setting a degree of the deterioration.

18. (Currently amended) A program product embodied on a computer-readable storage medium according to claim 13, wherein when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, whether a mode in which the printing is not executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting step or not is discriminated every page, if it is determined that the mode in which the printing is not executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting step, said printing step deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information, and when the image is deteriorated and printed on the basis of the print information, if it is determined that a mode in which the printing is executed in excess of the specific deterioration degree has been set by the setting step, said printing step deteriorates the image and executes the printing on the basis of the print information.